

# Becky Dickson



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MAY 22 2003

HABITAT PROGRAM

May 14, 2003

Jeff Koenings, Director  
WDFW  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: WDFW Habitat Program - Technical Applications Division

Dear Mr. Koenings:

Hi. My name is Becky Dickson. I am a private citizen residing in the small timber town of Forks. I am writing this letter to express my profound gratitude for the technical assistance I received from WDFW's Habitat Program - Technical Applications team members, including Dave King, Fish Habitat Enhancement Biologist, Theresa Powell, F&W Biologist, and Dave Nettnin, Scientific Technologist.

In the spring of 2002, it came to my attention that the riparian habitat near my home was slated for clear-cut logging. Having spent a good deal of time daily, in and along this stream corridor, I was very concerned about the impact a clear-cut would have on the local fish and animal populations. The salmon run was healthy and the animals foraging and nesting in this area were numerous. Possessing more energy than knowledge, I set out to try and find a way to keep this high quality habitat intact.

I started by making phone calls and one of those calls was to Theresa Powell, a member of your staff. Theresa listened with patience and then shared valuable information about the resources available in tackling such a project. I was surprised, but extremely grateful, to have reached someone in government who could offer the level of support that Theresa provided. With her guidance, I was able to focus on a decision to apply for a salmon recovery funding grant.

The first step in the application process involved delivery of a preliminary project proposal to the Technical Review Group (TRG) for the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity (NOPE). Armed with poster board and grainy photos of the habitat in question, I proceeded to speak in front of this group, and to ask for their consideration in advancing my project. Dave King, as a member of the Technical Review Group, was in the audience. Afterwards he shook my hand and handed me his business card. He said, "I think I can help you with your project."

Indeed, Dave King has been a tremendous help. Through his leadership, WDFW became a partner through an in-kind match on the salmon recovery grant proposal. Dave made a field visit and recognized the data gap of information available for Elk Creek. The numerous wetlands, tributaries, and fish-use areas were not identified on any map, and while the Fish and Forest agreement provides a critical step towards protecting habitat, it would not protect the **unidentified** fish habitat in this watershed.

Through Dave King's leadership, Theresa Powell and Dave Nettnin were able to document 48 tributaries as fish habitat that were not listed on the Forest Practice Activity Maps. Through intensive field verification, they scientifically acknowledge the actuality of this rich and productive wildlife area and provided the technical basis for my grant proposal.

With WDFW's as a primary partner, I was able to attract other partners on the grant, including Quileute Natural Resources, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Wild Salmon Center, Stream-Keepers of Clallam County, as well as commitment of our private donation. In all, we were able to come up with a \$120,000.00 local match and applied for \$680,000.00 of salmon recovery funding dollars to purchase and protect this valuable habitat.

I am elated to inform you the IAC Salmon Recovery Funding Board recently announced their decision to fund the Elk Creek Project. Protection of the 220 acres of prime fish and high quality wildlife habitat included in the project would not have been possible without the technical support I received from Dave King, Theresa Powell and Dave Nettnin. Their fundamental role was vital to the project's success and I thank you for having them on your staff.

Sincerely,

*Becky Dickson*

Becky Dickson

*Copy: Dave King*